के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं कि शांति और सामान्य हालात जल्दी ही बहाल की जाय।

Infiltration of Foreign Mercenaries in J&K

*1776. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated the 10th July, 1997 under the catpion, "Ultras taking over CM constituency, Parry";

(b) if so, how 3500 foreign mercenaries, including Afghans, have been able to infiltrate into Kashmir, despite our intelligence agencies and security forces; and

(c) the steps being taken to counter this serious treat to the unity and integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MANISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Government have seen the newsreport. There are reports to the effect that increasing use of foreign mercenaries are being resorted to by Pak ISI to give a fillip to militancy in Kashmir. However, it is not possible to indicate the precise number of foreign mercenaries in J & K. While it is not feasible to seal the border hermetically due to the difficult nature of terrain conditions in J & K, the security forces are, constantly vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to defeat the nefarious designs of Pak ISI.

Close vigil is being kept by the Security Forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipment, including night vision devices, etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOC/ border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies, etc. The arrangements are being continously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary.

High Voltage Propaganda on Human Rights by Kashmiri Militants

1777. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pakistani design of infiltrating foreign mercenaries into Kashmir as reported in Indian Express of 10th June, 1997;

(b) whether militants in Kashmir are also being instigated to launch high voltage propaganda on human rights, as a prelude to launching attacks by the mercenaries; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to meet the above challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Government have seen the newsreport. There are reports to the effect that increasing use of trained foreign militants/mercenaries are being resorted to by Pak ISI to give a fillip to the militancy in J & K. Launching of high voltage propaganda on the alleged human rights violations through militants is also a part of the game plan of the Pak ISI to sustain militancy in the Valley and garner public support.

While carrying out anti-militancy operations, the security forces have been asked to make a conscious effort to see that opportunities, which could be exploited for false propaganda by the militants and secessionist organisations do not become available as a result of their actions. Security forces are also vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to curb the nefarious designs of the Pak ISI and the militant activities in J & K. Apart from surveillance and counterinfiltration